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LUD-4 JEL/NDH (10017134)

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FEB 26 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant : DUMOUTIER, et al.

Serial No. : 09/626,617

Filed : July 27, 2000

For : ISOLATED NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES WHICH
ENCODE T CELL INDUCIBLE FACTORS, OR
INTERLEUKIN-21, THE PROTEINS ENCODED, AND
USES THEREOF

Art Unit : 1644

Examiner : A. Decloux

February 21, 2003

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 13-21 without prejudice, and add claims 22-32 which follow:

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Claim 22: A method for stimulating expression of STAT 3 transcription factor, comprising contacting a cell capable of said expression with an amount of an IL-TIF/IL-21 sufficient to stimulate said expression.

Claim 23: The method of claim 22, wherein said IL-TIF/IL-21 is mammalian IL-TIF/IL-21.